

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Dissolution of Non-Communist Parties

PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

25X1A

DATE ACQUIRED
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DATE (OF INFO.)

25X1A

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DATE DISTR 20 Jan 1954

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

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1. A secret decision of the session of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party held 3 to 5 Dec 53 called for the dissolution of non-Communist parties-- the Socialist Party of which Dr. Emanuel Mlecha is chairman and the Popular Democratic (Catholic) Party, of which Dr. Josef Plojhar is chairman, both of which had been cooperating with the Communists in forming a National Front. The dissolution will be in charge of a special committee under Antonín Novotný.
2. The decision to dissolve was taken as the result of directives from Moscow, which advised the Czechoslovak Communists to accept full practical responsibility for political leadership in the country, and thus create a basis for the political unification of Czechoslovakia. The Kremlin instructed Novotný to forward practical proposals for attaining the desired end. Novotný proposed the formation of an important group of non-political voters in place of the dissolved parties and allowing them to elect deputies and municipal counselors.
3. The Novotný plan is strongly opposed by Zápotocký and Václav Nosek, Minister of Manpower, who believe the National Front more effective and are nervous about the effect of the dissolution on the stability of the regime.
4. Another special committee, consisting of Viliam Široký, Dr. Jaromír Dolanský and Karol Bacílek have been entrusted with the dissolution of the Slovak Regeneration Party, and have been instructed to keep Moscow in touch with difficulties encountered.

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